the services of various State Governments, including Gujarat, on condition that the Central Government would reimburse the pay and allowances of the NDSIs so long as they remained in service.

(c) and (d) In response to the request of the State Government of Gujarat for reimbursement of Rs. 18,86,64,951, a sum of Rs. 31,00,000 has been released to Government of Gujarat upto March 2007. In the meetings held on 13th and 14th March 2007 with the officers of the State Governments it was decided that as per the terms of transfer of NDSIs, the Central Government will meet in full the expenditure on the pay and allowances of these absorbed NDSIs for so long as they remained in service. In view of this.reimbursement claims of the State Government/UT Administrations, including Gujarat, is assessed only upto the zero date *i.e.* the date of retirement of last NDSI.

Keeping in view the demands of various State Governments and availability of budgetary provision, some more funds will be, released to Government of Gujarat during the current financial year.

World Cup 2007

4729. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AN D SPORTS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there was serious infighting, non-cooperation, non-commitment within the Indian cricket team that lost miserably in the World Cup, 2007;

if so, the details thereof;

whether these cricket players are highest paid players in the country; and

whether their performance is not taken into consideration while signing their contracts?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Board of Control for Cricketin India (BCCI), -they have not received any complaint about serious infighting, non-cooperation, or non-commitment within the Indian Cricket Team. However BCCI have acknowledged the poor

performance of the Indian Team at the ICC World Cup 2007 and held the team collectively responsible for its poor performance.

(c) and (d) BCCI have acknowledged that cricketers are the highest paid sportspersons in the country and payments to them are made in terms of contracts signed with them. Such contract, in turn, are based on their past performance.

Utilization of funds for SCs and STs

4730. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that Rs 24.64 crores was allocated 10 his Ministry for the year 2006-07 to be spent on programmes with at least 20 per cent allocation benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

the programmes which have been undertaken by his Ministry for 2006-07 with details of budget funds utilized, quantitative and qualitative benefits accrued to these sections, State-wise;

the programmes with that least 20 per cent allocation out of the Budget allocation of Rs. 39.19 crores to be undertaken for 2007-08 with details thereof; and

the amount likely to be spent and benefits to be accrued to these sections, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) This Ministry is implementing Plan schemes relating to be development of youth activities and sports in the country. While these schemes are not specifically earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs & STs), efforts are always made to ensure that 20% of the budget is spent under the schemes for the welfare of SC/ST wherever possible. A stipulation is also made in financial sanctions to ensure that SC/ST beneficiaries are encouraged to participate in programmes. However, under the schemes of National Integration and Promotion of Adventure, the position in respect of the programmes undertaken by the Ministry during 2006-07 and details of budget funds utilized, quantitative and qualitative benefits accrued to these sections are given below:—